# EXHIBIT 6-A PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY (PES)

Fede	eral	Project No.: STPL	-5058 (081) eral Program P	refix-P	rojec	t No., Agree	ment No.)	Fir	nal De	esigr	1: July 2020 (Expected Start Date)
To:	_A	lbert Vergel De Dios,	P.E.				From:	City of R	ivers	ide	
			Assistance Eng	ineer)			(Local Agency)				
	_D	istrict 8					_				826-5714
		(1	District)								ger's Name and Telephone No.)
	14	64 West Fourth Street	MC 760					Public W		-	
		an Bernardino, CA 92						3900 Ma Riverside			
			1ddress)				-	Kiveisiue	CA	9432	(Address)
	Α	lbert.Vergel.De.Dios						SCPatel@	nrive	rside	'
			iil Address)	700000			-		<u> </u>		(Email Address)
		roject "ON" the ghway System?	☐ Yes ⊠ No	IF reg	YES gardi	S, STOP	HERE a	nd contact of other e	the I	Distr nme	ict Local Assistance Engineer ntal documentation.
		State Transportation	Improveme	nt Pr	ogra	ım		2019			24
(FST	-			_			(Currently	y Adopted Pl	an Da	te)	(Page No attach to this form)
http:/	/wv	vw.dot.ca.gov/hq/trans	sprog/oftmp.	htm							
		ıming Prelimina	ry Engineeri				Right of Way			Construction	
for F	SII	11101	\$ 4,000,0		_	2019/2		13,000,			2021/2022 \$ 28,000,000
		(Fiscal Year)	(Dolla	irs)		(Fiscal )	ear)	(Dollar	rs)		(Fiscal Year) (Dollars)
Proje	ect I	Description as Show	n in RTP and	d FS1	IP:						
IN RI	VE	RSIDE ON THIRD ST	TREET: REI	PLAC	E E	XISTING	4 LANI	E (2 IN EA	(CH	DIRI	ECTION) R/R/X-ING WITH A
4-LN	(2 I	LNS IN EA DIR – NO	N-CAPACI	TY) U	J.C.	GRADE	SEPARA	ATION OI	HT N	IRD	ST BETWEEN VINE STREET
AND Detai	PA	RK AVE. (2019 FTIP	Riverside C	ounty	Loc	al Highw	ays, Proj	ject ID RI	<u>V111</u>	<u>121,</u>	page 24).
acquis	ition	, proposed facilities, stagin	g areas, disposo	al and i	ing, a. borro	s applicable w sites, con	truction a	ana neea, pro ctivities, and	ojeci id constr	ocano: uctior	n and limits, required right of way n access.)
The p	rop	osed project is to cons	struct a grade	e sepa	ratio	on at 3 <sup>rd</sup> S	treet and	BNSF, in	cludi	ng in	nprovements to the Riverside
Cana	l, re	alignment of existing	3rd Street, m	odific	ation	ns to 3 <sup>rd</sup> S	treet acc	ess drivev	vays,	cons	truction of curb, gutter, and
sidew	/alk	, and other miscellane	ous improve	ment	s in t	he City o	f Riversi	de.			
						(Coi	tinue desci	ription on "N	Votes"	sheet,	last page of this Exhibit, if necessary)
Prelin	min	ary Design Informati	on:								
Does	the	project involve any o	f the following	ng? I	Pleas	e check t	ne approp	priate boxe	es and	d del	ineate on an attached map,
		ayout including any a	dditional per	tinent	t info	ormation.					
	No 	Widen existing roadw Increase number of the New alignment Capacity increasing— (e.g., channelization)	rough lanes	Yes	No 	Ground on Road cut Excavati maximum	on: antic	ipated	Yes	No	Easements Equipment staging Temporary access road/detour Utility relocation Right of way acquisition
		Realignment				Drainage Flooding	protection	on		<u></u> —	(if yes, attach map with APN)
$\boxtimes$	H	Ramp or street closure Bridge work	•	Ш	$\boxtimes$	Stream c	hannel w	ork		Ш	Disposal/borrow sites
	_	•		$\boxtimes$		Pile driv	ing			$\boxtimes$	Part of larger adjacent project
$\boxtimes$	Н	Vegetation removal Tree removal		$\boxtimes$		Demoliti	on		$\boxtimes$		Railroad

Red	quired Attachments:					
	Regional map	Project location map	Project footprint map (exis	ting/pro	posed right of wa	ıy)
	Engineering drawings (existing	ng and proposed cross sections), if av	vailable Borrow/disposal site locati	on map,	if applicable	
(No	te: all maps (except project locat	ion map and regional maps) should be co	nsistent with the project description (mini	num scal	e: 1" = 200').)	
	GeoTracker Printout for Haza	ardous Materials (http://geotracker.w	aterboards.ca.gov).			
		ngered Species List from USFWS (h	- ,			
		ngered Species List from NMFS				
		noaa.gov/maps_data/california_speci	es_list_tools.html).			
	Current Photos of Project					
The " includ	construction area," as sp ling staging and stockpili					•
	Potential Environment		,	Yes	To Be	No
					Determined	
Ge	neral					
1.	Will the project require futu proposed project?	re construction to fully utilize the des	sign capabilities included in the			$\boxtimes$
2.	Will the project generate pu	blic controversy?				$\boxtimes$
No	ise į					
3.	physical alteration of an exi	ct as defined in 23 CFR 772.5(h); "cc sting highway, which significantly cl ses the number of through-traffic lan	hanges either the horizontal or			
4.	Does the project have the po (such as related to pile drivi	otential for adverse construction-relating)?	ted noise impact		$\boxtimes$	
Air	Quality					
5.	Is the project in a NAAQS n	non-attainment or maintenance area?		$\boxtimes$		
6.		he requirement that a conformity detention in 40 CFR 93.126, or 40 CFR 93.1	ermination be made? (If "Yes," state 28	$\boxtimes$		
	(check one box below and i	dentify the project type if applicable)				
	☑ 40 CFR 93.126	Project Type: Safety - Railroa	d/Highway Crossing			
7.	Is the project exempt from r CFR 93.127, Table 3 applie	egional conformity? (If "Yes," state	which conformity exemption in 40	[7]		
8.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	n regional conformity, (If "No" on Q	nestion #7)			
0.		non-attainment/maintenance area?	uosiion,)	П	П	
	Is project in an isolated run			H	H	Ħ
	Is project in a CO, PM10 ar	nd/or PM2.5 non-attainment/mainten	ance area?			
Ha	zardous Materials/Hazard	ious Waste				
9.	hazardous waste (including	ous materials (including underground oil/water separators, waste oil, asbes immediately adjacent to the construc	stos-containing material, lead-based			
Wa	ter Quality/Resources					
10.		otential to impact water resources (riving immediately adjacent to the project a				
11	Is the project within a design	nated sole-source aquifer?		П	П	M

Coastal Zone			
12. Is the project within the State Coastal Zone, San Francisco Bay, or Suisun Marsh?			
Floodplain			
13. Is the construction area located within a regulatory floodway or within the base floodplain (100-year) elevation of a watercourse or lake?			$\boxtimes$
Wild and Scenic Rivers			
14. Is the project within or immediately adjacent to a Wild and Scenic River System?			$\boxtimes$
Biological Resources	,		
15. Is there a potential for federally listed threatened or endangered species, or their critical habitat or essential fish habitat to occur within or adjacent to the construction area?			$\boxtimes$
16. Does the project have the potential to directly or indirectly affect migratory birds, or their nests or eggs (such as vegetation removal, box culvert replacement/repair, bridge work, etc.)?			$\boxtimes$
17. Is there a potential for wetlands to occur within or adjacent to the construction area?			$\boxtimes$
18. Is there a potential for agricultural wetlands to occur within or adjacent to the construction area?			$\boxtimes$
19. Is there a potential for the introduction or spread of invasive plant species?			
Sections 4(f) and 6(f)			
20. Are there any historic sites or publicly owned public parks, recreation areas, wildlife or waterfowl refuges (Section 4[f]) within or immediately adjacent to the construction area?		$\boxtimes$	
21. Does the project have the potential to affect properties acquired or improved with Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (Section 6[f]) funds?			
Visual Resources			
22. Does the project have the potential to affect any visual or scenic resources?			$\boxtimes$
Relocation Impacts			
23. Will the project require the relocation of residential or business properties?	$\boxtimes$		
Land Use, Community, and Farmland Impacts			
24. Will the project require any right of way, including partial or full takes? Consider construction easements and utility relocations.	$\boxtimes$		
25. Is the project inconsistent with plans and goals adopted by the community?			$\boxtimes$
26. Does the project have the potential to divide or disrupt neighborhoods/communities?		$\boxtimes$	
27. Does the project have the potential to disproportionately affect low-income and minority populations?			
28. Will the project require the relocation of public utilities?	$\boxtimes$		
29. Will the project affect access to properties or roadways?	$\boxtimes$		
30. Will the project involve changes in access control to the State Highway System (SHS)?			$\boxtimes$
31. Will the project involve the use of a temporary road, detour, or ramp closure?	$\boxtimes$		
32. Will the project reduce available parking?			
33. Will the project construction encroach on state or federal lands?		- 🗖	$\boxtimes$
34. Will the project convert any farmland to a different use or impact any farmlands?			$\boxtimes$
Cultural Resources			
35. Is there National Register listed, or potentially eligible historic properties, or archaeological resources within or immediately adjacent to the construction area? (Note: Caltrans PQS answers question #35)			
36. Is the project adjacent to, or would it encroach on Tribal land?			$\boxtimes$

For Sections B, C, and D, check appropriate box to indicate required technical studies, coordination, permits, or approvals.

В.	Required Technical Studies and Analyses	C.	Coordination	D.	Anticipated Actions/Permits/Approvals
	Traffic				
	Check one:				
	☐ Traffic Study		Caltrans		Approval
	☐ Technical Memorandum		Caltrans		Approval
	☐ Discussion in ED Only		Caltrans		Approval
$\boxtimes$	Noise				
	Check as applicable:				
	☐ Traffic Related				
	Check one:				
	☐ Noise Study Report		Caltrans		Approval
	□ NADR		Caltrans		Approval
	☐ Technical Memorandum	$\boxtimes$	Caltrans		Approval
	☐ Discussion in ED Only		Caltrans		Approval
	Air Quality				
	Check as applicable:				
	☐ Traffic Related				
	☐ Construction Related				
	Check one:				
	☐ Air Quality Report		Caltrans		Approval
	☐ Technical Memorandum		Caltrans		Approval
	☐ Discussion in ED Only		Caltrans		Approval
			FHWA		Conformity Finding (23 USC 327 CEs, EAs, EISs)
		· 🔲	Caltrans		Conformity Finding (23 USC 326 CEs)
			Regional Agency		PM10/PM2.5 Interagency Consultation
$\boxtimes$	Hazardous Materials/				
	Hazardous Waste				
	Check as applicable:				
	<ul><li>✓ Initial Site Assessment (Phase 1)</li></ul>	⊠	Caltrans	☒	Approval
	Preliminary Site Assessment (Phase 2)		Caltrans		Approval
	☐ Discussion in ED Only		Caltrans		Approval
		$\boxtimes$	Cal EPA DTSC		Review Database
		$\boxtimes$	Local Agency		Review Database
	Water Quality/Resources				
	Check as applicable:				
	Water Quality Assess. Report	$\boxtimes$	Caltrans		Approval
	☐ Technical Memorandum		Caltrans		Approval
	☐ Discussion in ED Only		Caltrans		Approval
	Sole-Source Aquifer				
	(Districts 5, 6 and 11)		EPA (S.F. Regional Office)		Approval of Analysis in ED
	Coastal Zone		CCC		Coastal Zone Consistency Determination

В.	Required Technical Studies	C.	Coordination	D.	Anticipated
	and Analyses				Actions/Permits/Approvals
	Floodplain			-	
	Check as applicable:				
	Location Hydraulic Study	빝	Caltrans	<u> </u>	Approval
	Floodplain Evaluation Report	$\Box$	Caltrans		Approval
	Summary Floodplain Encroachment Report	Ш	Caltrans		Approval
			Caltrans		Only Practicable Alternative Finding
			FHWA		Approves significant encroachments and concurs in Only Practicable Alternative Findings
	Wild and Scenic Rivers				
			River Managing Agency		Wild and Scenic Rivers Determination
	Biological Resources				
	Check as applicable:				
	☐ NES, Minimal Impact		Caltrans		Approval
	☐ NES				
	☐ BA		Caltrans		Approves for Consultation
			USFWS		Section 7 Informal/Formal Consultation
			NOAA Fisheries		
	☐ EFH Evaluation		NOAA Fisheries		MSA Consultation
	☐ Bio-Acoustic Evaluation		NOAA Fisheries		Approval
	☐ Technical Memorandum		Caltrans		Approval
	Wetlands				
	Check as applicable:				
	☐ WD and Assessment		Caltrans		Approval
			ACOE		Wetland Verification
			NRCS		Agricultural Wetland Verification
			Caltrans		Wetlands Only Practicable Alternative Finding
	Invasive Plants				
	☐ Discussion in ED Only		Caltrans		Approval
	Section 4(f)				
	Check as applicable:				
			Caltrans		Determine Temporary Occupancy
	☐ De minimis		Caltrans		De minimis finding
	☐ Programmatic 4(f) Evaluation		Caltrans		Approval
	Type:				
	☐ Individual 4(f) Evaluation	П	Caltrans	+ $$	Approval
	Individual 4(1) Evaluation		Agency with Jurisdiction	<del>                                     </del>	Approvai
		片	SHPO		
			DOI		
			HUD		
			USDA		
			OUDIN	<u>.                                    </u>	

В.	Required Technical Studies and Analyses	C.	Coordination	D.	Anticipated Actions/Permits/Approvals
Ш	Section 6(f)	_			
			Agency with Jurisdiction		
			NPS		Determines Consistency with Long-Term Management Plan
		$\dagger \Box$	NPS		Approves Conversion
	Visual Resources				
	☐ Technical Memorandum		Caltrans		Approval
	☐ Minor VIA		Caltrans		Approval
	☐ Moderate VIA		Caltrans		Approval
	☐ Advance/Complex VIA		Caltrans		Approval
$\boxtimes$	Relocation Impacts				
	Check one:				
	Relocation Impact Memo		Caltrans	$\boxtimes$	Approval
	Relocation Impact Study		Caltrans		Approval
	Relocation Impact Report		Caltrans		Approval
$\boxtimes$	Land Use and				•
	Community Impacts				
	Check one:			į	
	CIA		Caltrans		Approval
	Technical Memorandum		Caltrans		Approval
	Discussion in ED Only	Ш	Caltrans	$\perp \Box$	Approval
Ш	Construction/Encroachment				
	on State Lands				
	Check as applicable:	_	OT C	-	ar ar
	SLC Jurisdiction	片片	SLC	ᆛᄖᆕ	SLC Lease
	Caltrans Jurisdiction  SP Jurisdiction		Caltrans SP	ᆛ旹	Encroachment Permit
		┼└	SP	<del></del>	Encroachment Permit
Ш	Construction/Encroachment on Federal Lands				
	Oli Federal Lalius		Federal Agency with		Encroachment Permit
			Jurisdiction		Encroacinnent Fermit
	Construction/Encroachment		Bureau of Indian Affairs		Right of Way Permit
	On Indian Trust Lands				
	Farmlands				
	Check one:				•
	CIA		Caltrans		Approval
	Technical Memorandum		Caltrans		Approval
	Discussion in ED Only	$ \Box$	Caltrans		Approval
	Check as applicable:	_			
	☐ Form AD 1006		NRCS		Approves Conversion
		$\perp \square$	CDOC		Approves Conversion
	Conversion to Non-Agri Use		ACOE		

В.	Required Technical Studies and Analyses	C.	Coordination	D.	Anticipated Actions/Permits/ Approvals
$\boxtimes$	Cultural Resources				
	(PQS completes this section)				
	Check as applicable:	_	•		
		Ш	Caltrans PQS		Screened Undertaking
	APE Map		Caltrans PQS and DLAE		Approves APE Map
			Local Preservation Groups and/or Native American Tribes		Provides Comments Regarding Concerns with Project
	₩ HPSR	$\boxtimes$	Caltrans		Approves for Consultation
	⊠ ASR				
			0.14		
	☐ Finding of Effect Report	L	Caltrans		Concurs on No Effect, No Adverse Effect with Standard Conditions
			SHPO		Letter of Concurrence on Eligibility, No Adverse Effect without Standard
	☐ MOA		Caltrans		Approves MOA
			SHPO		Approves MOA
			ACHP (if requested)		Approves MOA
$\boxtimes$	Permits				
	Copies of permits and a list of		ACOE		Section 404 Nationwide Permit
	mitigation commitments are		ACOE		Section 404 Individual Permit
	mandatory submittals following		Caltrans/ACOE/EPA		NEPA/404 Integration MOU
	NEPA approval.		USFWS		
			NOAA Fisheries		
			ACOE		Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 Permit
			USCG		USCG Bridge Permit
			RWQCB		Section 401 Water Quality Certification
			CDFG		Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement
		$\boxtimes$	RWQCB		NPDES Permit
			CCC		Coastal Zone Permit
			Local Agency		
			BCDC		BCDC Permit

Notes: Additional studies may be required for other federal agencies.

ACHP		Advisory Corneil on Historic Processis	IMED		III-ti1 D
ACOE	=	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	HRER	=	Historical Resources Evaluation Report
ACOE	=		HUD	==	U.S. Housing and Urban Development
ADL APE	=	Aerially Deposited Lead Area of Potential Effect	MOA	=	Memorandum of Agreement
	=		MSA	=	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and
APN	=	Assessor Parcel Number	A TECH A		Management Act
ASR	=	Archaeological Survey Report	NEPA	=	
BA	=	Biological Assessment	NADR	=	Noise Abatement Decision Report
BCDC	=	Bay Conservation and Development Commission	NES	=	Natural Environment Study
BE	=	Biological Evaluation	NHPA	=	National Historic Preservation Act
BO	=	Biological Opinion	NOAA	=	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Cal EPA		California Environmental Protection Agency	NMFS		National Marine Fisheries Service
CCC	=	California Coastal Commission	NPDES	=	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
CDFW	=	California Department of Fish and Wildlife	NPS	=	National Park Service
CDOC	=	California Department of Conservation	NRCS	=	Natural Resources Conservation Service
CE	=	Categorical Exclusion	PM10	=	Particulate Matter 10 Microns in Diameter or Less
CIA	=	Community Impact Assessment	PM2.5	=	Particulate Matter 2.5 Microns in Diameter or Less
CWA	=	Clean Water Act	PMP	=	Project Management Plan
DLAE	=	District Local Assistance Engineer	PQS	=	Professionally Qualified Staff
DOI	=	U.S. Department of Interior	ROD	=	Record of Decision
DTSC	=	Department of Toxic Substances Control	RTIP	=	Regional Transportation Improvement Program
EA	=	Environmental Assessment	RTP	=	Regional Transportation Plan
ED	=	Environmental Document	RWQCB	==	Regional Water Quality Control Board
EFH	=	Essential Fish Habitat	SER	=	Standard Environmental Reference
EIS		Environmental Impact Statement	SEP	=	Senior Environmental Planner
EPA	=	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	SHPO	=	State Historic Preservation Officer
FEMA	=	Federal Emergency Management Agency	SLC	=	State Lands Commission
FHWA	=	Federal Highway Administration	SP	=	State Parks
FONSI	=	Finding of No Significant Impacted	TIP	=	Transportation Improvement Program
FTIP	=	Federal Transportation Improvement Program	USCG	=	U.S. Coast Guard
HPSR	==	Historic Property Survey Report	USDA	=	U.S. Department of Agriculture
		indicate reports ourses report	USFWS		U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
			WD	=	
			WD	_	Welland Defineation

E.	Preliminary Environmental Document Classificati	on (NEPA)	
	Based on the evaluation of the project, the environmental of	document to be developed sho	uld be:
	Check one:		
	Environmental Impact Statement (Note: Engagement with	th participating agencies in accor	rdance with 23 USC 139 required)
	Compliance with 23 USC 139 regarding Participa	ting Agencies required	
	Complex Environmental Assessment		
	Routine Environmental Assessment		
	Categorical Exclusion without required technical stud	ies.	
	☐ Categorical Exclusion with required technical studies		
	(if Categorical Exclusion is selected, check one of the following	lowina):	
	Section 23 USC 326	ioming).	
	≥ 320		
	23 CFR 771 activity (d) ()	26	
	☐ Activity listed in the Section 23 USC 3 ☐ Section 23 USC 327	20	
_			
F.	Public Availability and Public Hearing		
	Check as applicable:		
	Not Required		
	Notice of Availability of Environmental Document		•
	Public Meeting		
	Notice of Opportunity for a Public Hearing		
	☐ Public Hearing Required		
	•		
G.	Signatures		
	Local Agency Staff and/or Consultant Signature		
	<b>3,</b>		
	K. Czechowski	12/12/2010	(959) 712 9222
	(Signature of Preparer)	12/13/2019 (Date)	(858) 712-8222 (Telephone No.)
		,	(**************************************
_	Kelly Czechowski		
	(Name)		
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
	Local Agency Project Engineer Signature		
	This document was prepared under my supervision, accord		rocedures Manual, Exhibit 6-B,
	"Instructions for Completing the Preliminary Environment	al Study Form."	
	refatel.		
	Jelan.	2/3/2020	(951) -826-5714
	(Signature of Local Agency)	(Date)	(Telephone No.)

Calt	trans District Professionally Qualified Staff (PQS) S	Signature	
	Project does not meet definition of an "undertaking"; no fur #35).	ther review is necessary und	ler Section 106 ("No" Section A,
	Project is limited to the type of activity listed in Attachment provided in the PES Form, the project does not have the pot Project is limited to the type of activity listed in Attachment procedures or information is needed to determine the potent Records Search	tential to affect historic property of the Section 106 PA, but	erties ("No" Section A, #35).  It the following additional
	Project meets the definition of an "undertaking"; all propert Attachment 4 of the Section 106 PA ("No" Section A, #35). The proposed undertaking is considered to have the potential		•
	compliance are indicated in Sections B, C, and D of this PE	S Form ("Yes" Section A, #.	(Telephone No.)
Calt I hav	following signatures are required for all CEs, routine an trans District Senior Environmental Planner (or Designer reviewed this Preliminary Environmental Study (PES) Forcient. I concur with the studies to be performed and the reconstruction of Senior Environmental Planner or Designee)	signee) and DLAE Signarm and determined that the s	submittal is complete and
	(Signature of District Local Assistance Engineer or Designee)  VERBEL DE DIOS  (Name)	2-4-2020 (Date)	(909)809-3944 (Telephone No.)
□ H	IQ DEA Environmental Coordinator concurrence(date)	Email	concurrence attached.

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# Preliminary Environmental Investigation Notes to Support the Conclusions of the PES Form (May Also Include Continuation of Detailed Project Description)

#### CONTINUATION OF DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

#### Introduction

The City of Riverside (City) is proposing to construct a railroad grade separation at Third Street and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF) at-grade crossing (DOT ID# 026480N). The crossing is located on Third Street, just to the east of State Route 91 and between Vine Street and Commerce Street.

# **Purpose and Need**

Third Street is an existing four-lane arterial road providing a connection route between downtown Riverside and the I-215 and passes through an industrial area between SR-91 and I-215. In addition, Third Street is used as bus routes for Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) buses and for Student Transportation America buses coming from their depot at the corner of Massachusetts and Kansas Avenue. J.W. North High School is locates approximately one mile east of the crossing with a substantial number of school children and other pedestrians passing through the BNSF crossing on a daily basis. Traffic volumes along this section of Third Street are anticipated to increase to nearly 17,000 vehicles per day by the year 2025. The existing at-grade crossing is located just east of Vine Street and SR-91. This at-grade crossing currently has three BNSF tracks with a future fourth track purposed. At this existing at-grade crossing, traffic and pedestrian movements are often delayed while waiting for trains to move through the crossing. With the growth in both freight and passenger train traffic expected in this area, these delays are anticipated to increase public safety concerns at this at-grade crossing. Safety will be improved by removing this crossing conflict.

The purpose of the project is to eliminate an at-grade railroad crossing on Third Street. The project is needed in order to increase safety and reduce the frequency of accidents on the road caused by the presence of an at-grade railroad crossing. The project would eliminate the interface between vehicle, pedestrian, and railroad infrastructure which would result in enhanced safety and eliminate delay due to the railroad crossing along Third Street.

## **Project Description**

The proposed project would provide a grade separated crossing by depressing Third Street between Vine Street and Park Street. Third Street would be lowered as an underpass and shifted southerly to avoid major property impacts to surrounding businesses. The proposed project would maintain the existing horizontal roadway configuration that consists of a conventional four-lane arterial roadway. The three existing BNSF main line track will be permanently shifted easterly to minimize disruptions of rail operations. Commerce Street that currently connects to Third Street just east of the BNSF tracks will be shifted easterly to allow for shifting of the tracks and to develop an improved intersection with Third Street. Project features include: Removal of existing asphalt concrete pavement, curbs, driveways, sidewalks, drainage piping and structures, and relocation of existing sewer, water and gas mainline within the project limits. New improvements will include construction of a railroad bridge (grade separation structure), permanent relocation of the three main line BNSF tracks, new retaining walls, asphalt concrete pavement, concrete curbs, sidewalks, traffic signals and site modifications to adjacent properties.

The new bridge structure will be two span structure approximately 80 feet wide by 100 feet long. A new storm drain system will be built to drain the underpass sump condition by installing catch basins and storm drain piping, construction of a new pump station and construction of a new water quality retention basin. The function of the pump station would be to pump any storm water that accumulates at the lowest point of the underpass into the storm drain system. The pump would discharge into the water quality retention basin on the south side of Third Street. In addition, an existing 78-inch Riverside County Flood Control storm drain line at the intersection of Mission Inn Avenue and Commerce Street will be extended to the intersection of Fourth Street and Commerce Street to allow for gravity discharge out of the water quality retention basin into this Riverside County Flood Control storm drain line to be drained offsite.

The existing Riverside Canal located adjacent to the BNSF tracks will be lowered through the underpass by the use of a siphon design to allow for the lowering of Third Street. The project would relocate existing underground utilities, including water and sewer lines, storm drains, gas, fiber optics to allow for the lowering of the roadway surface. The proposed project would eliminate the existing railroad-crossing signal since the road would be beneath the tracks.

## **Construction Period**

Project construction would take approximately 18 months. Construction equipment would be stored on site.

The first phase of construction will be realignment of Commence Street and build the new rail bridge while leaving BNSF operations unaffected. The second phase will be to shift the BNSF rail tracks to the new bridge and complete the underpass construction.

The project would require cut of approximately 70,000 cubic yards. The soil would be disposed of at a permitted disposal facility or reused at another site, depending on the levels of constituents in the soils. During construction of the project, it would be necessary to close Third Street to all through traffic at the project site. Two alternative detour routes have been developed. Both detour routes are intended to avoid routing traffic through the residential neighborhoods south and east of the project site. Detour Route 1 would detour all traffic to the south, via Lime Street, University Avenue, and Chicago Avenue. Detour Route 2 would detour all traffic to the north, via Vine Street/La Cadena Drive, Spruce Street, and Chicago Avenue.

The construction of retaining walls along the lateral edges of depressed portions of each roadway would affect five driveways to commercial and/or manufacturing locations and one ground-level pedestrian walkway. However, access to adjacent businesses would be maintained at all times. Closure, or partial closure, of driveways would require 72-hour advance notice and approval from the City and affected businesses. No residential access would be affected. Third Street would be closed during construction of the underpass; however, access to adjacent properties would be provided. Site excavation will range from existing elevations at the tie-ins at Vine Street and Park Avenue to a depth of 25 feet at the low point of the new roadway profile under the proposed bridge structure.

# BRIEF EXPLANATION OF HOW PROJECT COMPLIES, OR WILL COMPLY WITH APPLICABLE FEDERAL MANDATE (PART A):

- 1. The proposed project is consistent with the ultimate capacity of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street as envisioned by the City of Riverside. Future construction to fully utilize the design capabilities of the proposed project is not required.
- 2. Implementation of the proposed project would meet the goals stated in the City of Riverside's General Plan Circulation Element, primarily the facilitation of safe and timely access through the City. To date, public controversy has not been generated regarding the potential environmental impacts from the project. The proposed project is not anticipated to generate controversy.
- 3. The proposed project would result in the construction of a grade separation which may require changes in the horizontal or vertical alignment in the project area.
- 4. The proposed project is not anticipated to generate substantial amounts of construction-related noise. However, pile driving activities may be required to construct proposed improvements.
- 5. The project is in a NAAQS non-attainment area for ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> and a maintenance area for CO, NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>.
- 6. The project is one of the project types (Safety Railroad/Highway crossing) included in the 40 CFR 93.126, Table 2. Therefore, the project is exempt from the requirement that a conformity determination be made.
- 7. As noted above, the project is exempt from the requirement that a conformity determination be made.
- 8. As noted above, the project is exempt from the requirement that a conformity determination be made.
- 9. Because the proposed project includes the construction of a grade separation, a potential for exposure to hazardous materials, in the form of aerially deposited lead (ADL) or past hazardous spills may be present within the project limits. As required by Caltrans, a Hazardous Materials Initial Site Assessment (ISA) will be prepared to assess potential hazardous materials impacts resulting from the construction and operation of the proposed project.
- 10. The Riverside Canal runs underground north/south through the proposed project's boundaries and crosses 3<sup>rd</sup> Street just west of the existing BNSF tracks. Minimal impacts are anticipated to the Riverside Canal.
- 11. The project is located within Riverside County and would not be located within or near a designated sole-source aquifer, which are located in Fresno, Santa Cruz, Butte, and Imperial Counties.
- 12. The project site is located approximately 40 miles northeast of the Pacific Ocean in the City of Riverside. Therefore, the project site is not within the State Coastal Zone, San Francisco Bay, or Suisun Marsh.
- 13. The project is not within a regulatory floodway or the base floodplain elevation of a watercourse or lake.
- 14. The nearest river to the proposed project site is the Santa Ana River (located approximately 2 miles to the west. The Santa Ana River is not designated as a Wild and Scenic River, therefore, the project is not within or adjacent to a Wild and Scenic River System.
- 15. Due to the highly urbanized nature of the project area, it is highly unlikely that special-status plants and animal species will be disturbed by the project due to lack of suitable habitat.

- 16. A limited number of trees would be removed as part of the project, however, the project area does contain additional trees located in close proximity to the project construction area. Due to the existing level of disturbance in the project area and scope of construction activities, it is unlikely that the project would directly or indirectly affect migratory birds.
- 17. The project is location within a heavily urbanized area of the City, with existing infrastructure and impervious surfaces. There are no wetlands identified within the project limits. Therefore, the project would not involve any work within a wetland area.
- 18. Properties within and adjacent to the project limits are designated as "Urban and Built-Up" by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (California Department of Conservation, 2019). "Urban and Built-Up" land is defined as land used for residential, industrial, commercial, construction, institutional, public administration, railroad and other transportation yards, cemeteries, airports, golf courses, sanitary landfills, sewage treatment, water control structures, and other developed purposes. There is no potential for agricultural wetlands to occur within or adjacent to the project site.
- 19. The project consists of the construction of a grade separation in a highly urbanized environment. No components of the project would involve the introduction of invasive species. Work associated with the proposed project would conform to Executive Order 13112 regarding invasive species.
- 20. There are no publicly owned parks, recreation areas, or wildlife or waterfowl refuges that are located within or adjacent to the proposed project limits.
- 21. There are no properties in the project area that were acquired or improved with Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (Section 6[f]) funds.
- 22. The project is located in an area of the City that is heavily urbanized. Land uses within the project limits consist of industrial, commercial, and roadway features. No City or State designated visual resources are located within or adjacent to the project limits. The grade separation would be designed with architectural features to complement the aesthetics of the area and would be reviewed and approved by the City. It is anticipated that the proposed project will not adversely affect any visual or scenic resources. A copy of the project's Questionnaire to Determine VIA Level is attached to this PES form as Attachment D.
- 23. The proposed project would require additional right-of-way with the potential for full acquisition of selected parcels within the project limits. As a result, some businesses located within the project limits would need to be relocated. The potential relocation impacts resulting from the construction and operation of the proposed project would be documented as part of the Relocation Impact Memorandum prepared for the proposed project.
- 24. The proposed project would require additional right-of-way into areas outside of the existing right-of-way. These additional areas would be necessary for the construction of the grade separation, the realignment of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, the staging of materials and construction equipment, and other project related activities.
- 25. The proposed project is consistent with plans and goals adopted by the City of Riverside and regional agencies.
- 26. The proposed project is not anticipated to divide or substantially disrupt the community. Potential community impacts resulting from the construction and operation of the proposed project would be documented as part of the Community Impact Technical Memorandum prepared for the proposed project.
- 27. The proposed project limits are within Census Tract 304 and Census Tract 305.02. The predominant land use within the project limits is commercial, industrial, and transit uses with limited residential uses. The project is not anticipated to disproportionately affect low-income or minority populations in the project area. However, the identification of potential low-income or minority populations would be included as part of the Community Impact Technical Memorandum prepared for the proposed project
- 28. The project involves the construction of a grade separation and the realignment of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. It is anticipated that the relocation of public utilities would be required as part of the proposed project. The relocation of public utilities would be documented as part of the Community Impact Technical Memorandum prepared for the proposed project.
- 29. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street is a primary point of access from downtown Riverside to points east. Implementation of the proposed project would modify access to and through the City. Temporary detours would be required such as lane closures through the duration of the proposed project. Any required lane closures or detours would be implemented in accordance with applicable City of Riverside requirements. Due to the proposed realignment of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to accommodate the proposed project, there will be a change in access to local businesses along 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. This change in access would be documented as part of the Community Impact Technical Memorandum prepared for the proposed project.
- 30. No changes to access control to the State Highway System (SHS) are proposed as part of this project.
- 31. During construction, full sections of the roadway or partial lane closures may be required. As part of the construction plans prepared for the proposed project, a traffic control plan would be prepared for each phase of project to ensure that access to and from 3<sup>rd</sup> Street would be accommodated. Any required lane closures and/or detours would be conducted in accordance with applicable City requirements.
- 32. On street parking is currently not provided along the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street segment within the project limits. The project would be located adjacent to areas containing parking lots that serve existing businesses. The proposed project would require acquisition of existing parking areas that serve some existing businesses. However, these existing businesses would be

relocated to areas where adequate parking to service the business would be available. Therefore, the project would not reduce the availability of parking in the project area.

- 33. Construction of the proposed project is not anticipated to encroach on state or federal lands.
- 34. No agricultural operations are located adjacent or within the project limits. Properties within and adjacent to the project limits are designated as "Urban and Built-Up" by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (California Department of Conservation, 2019). As no prime or unique farmland is located within or adjacent to the proposed project site, no conversion of or impact to prime or unique farmland would occur.
- 35. Caltrans Professional Qualified Staff (PQS) answers Question #35.
- 36. The project is not adjacent to and would not encroach upon tribal lands.

Distribution

1) Original - DLAE, 2) Local Agency Project Manager, 3) DLA Environmental Coordinator

4) Senior Environmental Planner (or designee), 5) District PQS